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then the cost of construction went up by 50 per cent over the estimated figure. So, the Trust was not in a position to let out these apartments in the new block on rents, which would be within the means of the displaced persons."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" May I know how many Harijan families have been displaced or have been ousted out of this Cox Cheri and out of that full number, how many have been housed in the colony in Kodambakkam? What is the percentage compared to the total number of displaced persons? Did not the City Improvement Trust give an assurance to the Harijan families that have been ousted that first preference would be given to them . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The same question was put by the hon. Member, Sri Anthony Pillai."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Has the City Improvement Trust got under its contemplation any other scheme to house these people who have been displaced from Cox Cheri? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already answered this question. Probably the hon. Member was not listening to what I said."

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" This Cox Cheri was built nearly six or seven years ago. Why is it that the Government have taken such a long time to come to the decision of letting out these tenements at alleged economic rents and what amount of money has been lost by them by keeping these houses vacant for a long period of time? They have prevented the slum-dwellers from occupying them and they themselves have not made any money out of it. Is it sought to make up the loss by charging rents at high rates? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Cox Cheri blocks were built only in 1951. As they could not be rented out to the displaced people, the Government allowed the Trust to rent out the building for the best rent, the Trust could secure."

Provision of drinking water wells at Natham Gudiyatham, North Arcot district.

* 600 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state whether any representation has been received by the Government from the Harijans of Natham Gudiyatham, North Arcot district, for the provision of drinking water wells?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" A representation has been received by the District Welfare Officer, North Arcot. A well will be sunk in the cheri during 1954–55."